UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Western District of Washington

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Jan 06, 2021

CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT TACOMA
BY______ DEPUTY

In the Matter of the Search of (Briefly describe the property to be searched or identify the person by name and address) The items more fully described in Attachments A1 through A11)))	Case No.	MJ21-5001
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	Ž	APPLICATION FO	R A SEARCH WAR	RANT		
penalty of perjury property to be searche	that I have reasor d and give its locatio	to believe that on the <i>n</i>):	y for the government, e following person or 1, incorporated herein b	property (identify t	warrant and state under the person or describe the	
the items more fully	described in Attac	minents AT tillough AT	1, incorporated herein o	y reference,		
ocated in the person or describe the	Western property to be seized	District of	Washington	, there is now	concealed (identify the	
See Attachment B,	incorporated herei	n by reference.				
▼ ev	idence of a crime	;	1(c) is (check one or more) is illegally possessed;	re):		
			ise, or used in commit	ting a crime		
170	IRL D WENG		s unlawfully restraine	VEV		
The search	n is related to a vi	olation of:				
Code Se	ction		Offense L	Description		
21 U.S.C. 18 U.S.C.	§§ 841/846 § 1956	Drug trafficking/co Money laundering	550	•		
The applic	cation is based on	these facts:				
✓ See A	ffidavit of DEA TF	O Luke Brandeberry, c	continued on the attached	d sheet.		
			nding date if more tha h is set forth on the att		is requested	
Pursuant to Fed. I	R. Crim. P. 4.1, this	warrant is presented:	by reliable electroni	c means; or: to Applican's signa Brandeberry, Task Printed name and	ature Force Officer	
		n to before me and sign a sworn statement attes	ed in my presence, or sting to the truth of the f	oregoing affidavit	by telephone.	
Date: 01/00	5/2021		5	I Moud was	luo ure	
City and state: Ta	coma, Washington		J. Richard C	Creatura, United Sta	ates Magistrate Judge	-

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1	AFFIDAVIT
2	STATE OF WASHINGTON)
3 4	COUNTY OF PIERCE) ss
5	I, Luke A. Brandeberry, Task Force Officer, Drug Enforcement Administration,
6	United States Department of Justice, being first duly sworn on oath, depose and state:
7	I. AFFIANT BACKGROUND AND QUALIFICATIONS
8	1. I am a Task Force Officer (TFO) of the Drug Enforcement Administration
9	(DEA), currently assigned to the Tacoma Resident Office, located within the Seattle,
10	Washington, Field Division. As such, I am an investigative or law enforcement officer of
11	the United States, within the meaning of Section 2510(7) of Title 18, United States Code,
12	and am empowered by law to conduct investigations of and to make arrests for offenses
13	enumerated in Section 2516 of Title 18, United States Code. I have been a TFO since
14	February 2019. I am a commissioned law enforcement officer of the Kent Police
15	Department. I have a total of 13 years' experience as a police officer. During my time as
16	a police officer, I have worked uniformed patrol, as well as plain clothes investigations.
17	As a detective with the Kent Police Department Special Investigations Unit and a TFO
18	with the DEA, I have participated in hundreds of investigations that involved drug-related
19	offenses. These cases involved the use of undercover agents and confidential sources to
20	investigate the trafficking of methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, ecstasy, firearms, and
21	various abused prescription drugs. In many of these cases, I acted as the case agent,
22	confidential source handler, and/or undercover purchaser.
23	2. I am a graduate of McDaniel College, and hold a bachelor's degree in
24	Sociology with emphasis in Criminal Justice. In 2007, I completed a six-month entry-

- Sociology with emphasis in Criminal Justice. In 2007, I completed a six-month entry-level police academy in Montgomery County, Maryland. Since then, I have received over 300 hours of instruction specific to controlled substance and financial investigations.
- 3. I am responsible for investigations involving specified unlawful activities, to include the distribution of methamphetamine, heroin, and cocaine in the Western

District of Washington. I am also responsible for enforcing federal narcotics laws and 1 2 related statutes in the Western District of Washington. I received training on the proper 3 investigative techniques for these violations, including the use of confidential sources, 4 undercover agents/officers, the identification of drug trafficking organizations and 5 identifying the movement of narcotics and narcotic proceeds to and from Western 6 Washington. I have actively participated in investigations of criminal activity, including 7 but not limited to crimes against persons, crimes against property, and narcotics-related 8 crimes. During these investigations, I have also participated in the execution of search warrants and the seizure of evidence indicating the commission of criminal violations. 10 As a law enforcement officer, I have testified under oath, attested to applications in 11 support of search and arrest warrants, and obtained electronic monitoring orders. I have also assisted with several Title III (i.e., wiretap) investigations during my time as a DEA 12 13 TFO. During those wiretap investigations, I have worked in the wire room where I have 14 gained experience with minimization and evidence gathering from this type of 15 investigation.

- 4. I have participated in the debriefing of defendants, witnesses, and informants, during which time I have discussed with them their methods of drug smuggling, distribution, packaging, trafficking, avoiding law enforcement, and laundering proceeds, among other concerns related to drug trafficking. I have discussed and learned from other law enforcement investigators about these matters as well.
- 5. Through my training and experience, I have encountered and become familiar with various tools, methods, trends, paraphernalia and related articles utilized by various traffickers in their efforts to import, export, conceal and distribute controlled substances. I am also familiar with the way drug traffickers use telephones, often cellular telephones, to conduct their unlawful operations, and how they code their conversations to disguise their unlawful activities.
- 6. I have obtained the facts set forth in this Affidavit through my personal participation in the investigation described below; from oral and written reports of other

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law enforcement officers; from witnesses and informants cooperating with law enforcement; and from records, documents and other evidence obtained during this investigation. I have obtained and read official reports prepared by law enforcement officers participating in this investigation and in other investigations.

- 7. In addition, I have initiated, planned, and executed many narcotics search warrants that resulted in the arrest of suspects and the seizure of evidence. I have contacted, interviewed, and arrested numerous subjects for the possession, use, sale, distribution, delivery, and manufacture of illicit narcotics. I have become educated, trained and experienced with the terms, trends, habits, commonalties, methods, and idiosyncrasies surrounding illicit narcotics possession, use, distribution, manufacture, business and culture.
- 8. When this Affidavit refers to GPS location data, either I or other agents involved in the investigation have received the information from the telephone company pursuant to a court-authorized warrant.
- 9. During the course of this investigation I have had the opportunity to listen to, and review transcripts and line sheets (prepared by linguists) documenting the content of, hundreds of intercepted conversations, and read text messages involving the trafficking of methamphetamine, heroin, and other narcotics. I know through training and experience, including my experience with this investigation, individuals involved in the distribution of controlled substances and other criminal activity often use coded words and inferences when referring to their illegal activity. Linguists monitored the intercepted communications referred to in this Affidavit; the linguists also have training and experience in monitoring and documenting intercepted calls and text messages, and in interpreting coded drug-related conversations and vague references to drug trafficking. I have included summaries of conversations, which are based on my review of the line sheets (and, transcripts, where available) of intercepted communications, and from my own experience and from discussions with other experienced law enforcement officers familiar with this investigation who have reviewed the line sheets. In this Affidavit, I

- 10. When providing summaries of calls, text messages, events, and surveillance observations/operations, all the times listed are approximate.
- 11. Because I am submitting this Affidavit to establish probable cause to search the items described further below, this Affidavit does not contain every fact known to me or learned during this investigation. Instead, I have set forth only the facts that I believe are essential to establish the necessary foundation for the issuance of such warrants and a fair determination of probable cause.

II. PURPOSE OF AFFIDAVIT

- 12. I am submitting this Affidavit in support of an application to search the following items as further described in Attachments A1 to A11, for evidence, fruits and instrumentalities of drug trafficking and money laundering crimes committed by a drug trafficking organization (DTO) referred to in this Affidavit as the VAZQUEZ/VALDEZ DTO, and its associates, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), 843(b), 846, and 952, and Title 18, United States Code, Sections 924(c), 1956, and 1957, as further described in Attachment B:
- a. A red Infiniti G50 with California license plate 7YZX305 (SUBJECT VEHICLE 1);
- b. A black Chevy Silverado with California license plate DLR86963 (SUBJECT VEHICLE 2);
 - c. A silver Ford Raptor with California license plate 12858A3 (SUBJECT VEHICLE 3);

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1	d. A black Samsung cellular telephone located in Cesar VALDEZ-SANUDO's shirt pocket at the time of his arrest on December 16, 2020 (SUBJECT	
2	DEVICE 1);	
3	e. A black LG cellular telephone located on Jose Luis ARREDONDO-	
5	VALDEZ's person at the time of his arrest on December 16, 2020 (SUBJECT DEVICE 2);	
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7	f. A black Samsung cellular telephone located in the driver's door of the red Infiniti G50 (SUBJECT DEVICE 3);	
8	g. A black LG cellular telephone, assigned IMEI 355041613233365, located in the center console of the red Infiniti G50 (SUBJECT DEVICE 4);	
10	h. A black LG cellular telephone, assigned IMEI 355041613860712,	
11	located in a blue leather zipper bag located on the front passenger seat floorboard area of the red Infiniti G50 (SUBJECT DEVICE 5);	
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13	i. A black LG cellular telephone, assigned IMEI 355041613860738, also located in a blue leather zipper bag located on the front passenger seat floorboard	
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15	j. A black LG cellular telephone, assigned IMEI 354544116218974,	
16	also located in a blue leather zipper bag located on the front passenger seat floorboard area of the red Infiniti G50 (SUBJECT DEVICE 7); and	
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18	k. Two Apple iPhones found in the possession of Aaron ALARCON-CASTANEDA at the time of his arrest on December 16, 2020 (SUBJECT DEVICES 8	
19	and 9).	
20	13. All of these items are presently in the secure custody of law enforcement, in	
21	Tacoma and/or Puyallup (Pierce County).	
22	III. SUMMARY OF PROBABLE CAUSE	
23	14. For more than 22 months, law enforcement has been investigating a DTO	
24	operating in the Western District of Washington, a portion of which is managed by	
25	leaders Omar VAZQUEZ-LIMON and Cesar VALDEZ-SANUDO (the	
26	VAZQUEZ/VALDEZ DTO). Investigators conducted countless hours of surveillance,	
27	utilized various investigation methods and tools, made controlled purchases of drugs	
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1	from the VAZQUEZ/VALDEZ DTO, and intercepted numerous drug-related telephone
2	calls and text messages with court authorization.
3	15. On December 9, 2020, a grand jury in the Western District of Washington
4	indicted 11 DTO members, to include Cesar VALDEZ-SANUDO, Jose Luis
5	ARREDONDO-VALDEZ, Yvette OLGUIN, and Aaron ALARCON-CASTANEDA.
6	The three-count Indictment included a drug trafficking conspiracy charge against all 11
7	members of the DTO; a drug distribution count against VALDEZ-SANUDO,
8	ALARCON-CASTANEDA, and another DTO member; and a money laundering
9	conspiracy count against VALDEZ-SANUDO and another DTO member. United States
10	Magistrate Judge Brian A. Tsuchida issued arrest warrants for the 11 individuals that
11	same day.
12	16. On December 11, 2020, United States Magistrate Judge Charles F. Eick
13	(Central District of California) authorized the search of the person of Aaron ALARCON-
14	CASTANEDA and his primary residence at 4292 Walnut Ave #B, Chino, California.
15	17. On December 14, 2020, United States Magistrate Judge Brian A. Tsuchida,
16	authorized the search of the primary residence of Cesar VALDEZ-SANUDO at 21916
17	123rd Ave NE, Arlington, Washington, among other locations.
18	18. On December 16, 2020, agents in the Western District of Washington and
19	Central District of California executed the arrest and search warrants referred to above
20	(as well as others not mentioned in this Affidavit).
21	A. Probable Cause for SUBJECT VEHICLE 1 and SUBJECT DEVICES 1 through 7
22	19. On December 15, 2020, at approximately 6:00pm, GPS location data for
23	telephones used by Cesar VALDEZ-SANUDO showed that the devices were located at
24	29619 123rd Ave NE, Arlington, Washington (his primary residence). Agents
25	established surveillance in the area.
26	20. At approximately 1:45am., TFO William McCormick observed SUBJECT
27	VEHICLE 1, a red Infiniti G50 sedan bearing California license plate 7YZX345, leave.
28	Agents followed SUBJECT VEHICLE 1; GPS location data indicated that VALDEZ-

1	SANUDO's telephones (TT147, TT150 and TT151) and ARREDONDO-VALDEZ's
2	phone (TT146) were moving in conjunction with the car. Agents followed SUBJECT
3	VEHICLE 1 to the vicinity of the Angel of the Winds Casino (3438 Stoluckquamish
4	Lane, Arlington), then to 8808 115th Ave NE, Lake Stevens, Washington, where it
5	arrived at approximately 2:21am (as observed by TFO Ryan Hamilton via a stationary
5	surveillance camera). VALDEZ-SANUDO maintains a "shop" at the Lake Stevens
7	property; it was among the locations for which agents had obtained a search warrant on
3	December 14, 2020.

- 21. At approximately 3:04am, TFO Hamilton observed SUBJECT VEHICLE 1 depart the property at 8808 115th Ave NE, Lake Stevens. GPS location data for VALDEZ-SANUDO's telephones again moved in conjunction with the vehicle. Agents followed SUBJECT VEHICLE 1 to a coffee stand at 4104 Hoyt Ave, Everett, where it stopped briefly. The car then left and traveled south on I-5.
- 22. At 4:10am, SUBJECT VEHICLE 1 arrived at the Snoqualmie Casino, located at 37500 SE North Bend Way, Snoqualmie. Shortly after it arrived, TFO McCormick located SUBJECT VEHICLE 1, unoccupied, on the second level of the parking garage.
- 23. A few minutes later, SA Jared Gibb contacted security personnel at the casino, and entered the security surveillance room. Using surveillance cameras, SA Gibb located VALDEZ-SANUDO and Jose ARREDONDO-VALDEZ on the casino floor. VALDEZ-SANUDO was playing at various slot machines. ARREDONDO-VALDEZ was also playing slots and was sitting near (and conversing with) another man, later identified as Joey Barnes. A review of surveillance video from the parking garage showed that VALDEZ-SANUDO had been the driver of SUBJECT VEHICLE 1, ARREDONDO-VALDEZ was seated in the front passenger seat, and the Barnes was in the backseat.
- 24. At approximately 6:10am, agents entered the casino and established visual surveillance of VALDEZ-SANUDO, ARREDONDO-VALDEZ and Barnes. At 6:25am,

agents arrested VALDEZ-SANUDO and ARREDONDO-VALDEZ, pursuant to the
aforementioned federal arrest warrants. VALDEZ-SANUDO was holding a stack of U.S
currency and had additional currency in his pants pocket, which was recovered by SA
Scott MacDonald. VALDEZ-SANUDO had SUBJECT DEVICE 1 in his shirt pocket.
ARREDONDO-VALDEZ had SUBJECT DEVICE 2 on his person. Agents also
detained Barnes, and another unindicted member of the DTO who had arrived at the
casino separately.

- 25. Agents then searched SUBJECT VEHICLE 1 while VALDEZ-SANUDO, ARREDONDO-VALDEZ and Barnes were present to observe. During the search, agents located a Draco .9mm assault rifle with an oil can attached to the muzzle as an improvised suppressor. The rifle was in the rear passenger area in front of the rear seat and directly behind the front passenger seat. It was loaded with an extended magazine and a chambered round. Agents noted that a second loaded extended magazine was taped to the first magazine. Agents also located a loaded Colt .45mm pistol on the driver's floorboard area, tucked into the space between the console and the right side of the driver's seat. Also tucked into this space between the console and driver's seat, agents located a wrapped-up ball of cellophane and a plastic heat-seal bag that appeared to have been cut open. Det. Dan Rucker located a second magazine for this pistol in a tan zipper/cooler case in the rear passenger compartment of SUBJECT VEHICLE 1. SA Scott MacDonald also located several bundles of currency inside the tan zipper/cooler bag, and a bundle of currency in the glove compartment. VALDEZ-SANUDO claimed ownership of the currency.
- 26. SA MacDonald also located a Kimber .38mm pistol in a blue leather zipper bag located on the front passenger seat floorboard area. The pistol was loaded with a full magazine and a round chambered. SA MacDonald also found SUBJECT DEVICES 5, 6,

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¹ This packaging was consistent with packaging used on numerous roughly one-pound methamphetamine packages found at VALDEZ-SANUDO's Arlington property.

and 7 inside the blue leather zipper bag. Det. Rucker found SUBJECT DEVICE 3 in the driver's door compartment, and SUBJECT DEVICE 4 in the center console.

27. Agents were also aware from intercepted communications over TT158

(206-990-3762) used by VALDEZ-SANUDO, that on the previous night (December 15, 2020) VALDEZ-SANUDO and his spouse Yvette OLGUIN had accidentally switched phones when they were at the Arlington property together. During Session 6 over TT158 at 8:32pm, OLGUIN (using TT158) called VALDEZ-SANUDO at her (OLGUIN's) own number (TT151/206-712-4185). During this call, OLGUIN stated that she was looking for her phone (TT151) and thought it may have fallen out of her car. VALDEZ-SANUDO told her that she had loaned it to him to look for his dog "King," who was apparently lost on the Arlington property. During this call, OLGUIN stated that the phone she was currently using (TT158) was their son Enrique's. At 11:24pm on December 15, 2020, agents intercepted an incoming call (Session 1193) to TT150 (VALDEZ-SANUDO) from OLGUIN (TT158). During this call, OLGUIN asked VALDEZ-SANUDO not to forget her phone (TT151) when he came over, presumably to OLGUIN's house at 4525 Grand Ave, Everett, Washington. VALDEZ-SANUDO stated that he did not have "it" on him but had left it in the car. VALDEZ-SANUDO stated that he was going to look for "Shamrock" and was waiting on "Joey" so that "Joey" could take him (to find Shamrock, presumably). VALDEZ-SANUDO told OLGUIN that if he let "him" (Shamrock) slide then "they" would take advantage of him (VALDEZ-SANUDO) and he (VALDEZ-SANUDO) would never let that happen.

28. During Session 1210 over TT150 (1:07am on December 16, 2020), VALDEZ-SANUDO called OLGUIN (TT158) again. During this call, VALDEZ-SANUDO stated that he was "working" and was going to "make a run to the big casino and the small casino." VALDEZ-SANUDO told OLGUIN to pay attention to what he was saying and repeated that he (VALDEZ-SANUDO) was going to "make a run" and might see "the car" and "that guy" there.

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- 29. Based on this information, agents believe "Joey" to be Joey Barnes, who had travelled with VALDEZ-SANUDO and ARREDONDO-VALDEZ to the Snoqualmie Casino. Agents also believe that VALDEZ-SANUDO intended to find and shoot/kill "Shamrock," who either owed VALDEZ-SANUDO an unpaid debt or had stolen drugs, currency or assets from him. This belief is supported by the firearms found in SUBJECT VEHICLE 1, and the fact that the firearms were being transported in a manner suggesting the need for immediate access (i.e., the pistol tucked between the driver's seat and console and the rifle fitted with an oil filter suppressor in the back seat).
- 30. The GPS location data for TT147 (VALDEZ-SANUDO) and TT146 (ARREDONDO-VALDEZ) showed the devices moved from the casino to the parking garage consistent with VALDEZ-SANUDO and ARREDONDO-VALDEZ's movements from their arrest inside the casino to the parking garage, where agents escorted them to search and process SUBJECT VEHICLE 1. For this reason, agents believe SUBJECT DEVICE 1 to be TT147 and SUBJECT DEVICE 2 to be TT146. GPS location data for TT150 and TT151 also coincided with VALDEZ-SANUDO's movements earlier in the evening of December 15/early morning of December 16, 2020 but the devices appear to have been shut off just prior to his arrival at the casino. However, GPS pings for TT150 and TT151 later resumed, placing the devices at the casino. Subsequent pings for these two phones reflected the movements of SUBJECT DEVICES 3-7 after the phones had been seized as evidence, indicating that TT150 and TT151 are two of the devices listed as SUBJECT DEVICES 3-7.
- 31. As agents were primarily occupied with interviews and evidence collection at the time, they only searched the easily accessible areas of SUBJECT VEHICLE 1 and did not conduct the type of exhaustive search required to locate factory voids or other hidden compartments ("traps") used for concealing drugs or currency.
- 32. For these reasons, agents believe the phones found on VALDEZ-SANUDO and ARREDONDO-VALDEZ (SUBJECT DEVICES 1 and 2), as well as the phones found inside SUBJECT VEHICLE 1 (SUBJECT DEVICES 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7) have been

used in the commission and/or facilitation of drug transactions and money laundering activity, and may contain records of these transactions as well as information indicating ownership and usage. Agents also believe, given the empty drug packaging found in SUBJECT VEHICLE 1 but lack of additional packages containing drugs for redistribution, that SUBJECT VEHICLE 1 may contain additional drugs hidden in a trap or natural void. SUBJECT VEHICLE 1 was secured and left at the Snoqualmie Casino parking garage until agents were able to transport it to a secure lot in Tacoma, Washington by agents later that day (December 16, 2020). SUBJECT DEVICES 1 through 7 have been in the secure custody of the DEA in Tacoma since their seizure on December 16, 2020.

B. Probable Cause for SUBJECT VEHICLES 2 and 3

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33. Shortly after VALDEZ-SANUDO and ARREDONDO-VALDEZ's arrests on the morning of December 16, 2020, agents executed a warrant at VALDEZ-SANUDO's residence at 21916 123rd Ave NE, Arlington, Washington. That search initially yielded two packages of suspected methamphetamine weighing approximately 4 pounds; multiple shrink-wrapped packages found to contain approximately 4 kilograms of heroin; approximately 6,000 suspected fentanyl pills; 10 firearms, and approximately 10 additional pounds of methamphetamine. Agents continued searching the property the following day, and found approximately 47 additional pounds of methamphetamine, 2 additional kilograms of heroin, a package of approximately 10,000 additional suspected fentanyl pills, and cash totaling approximately \$310,000. Aside from the 10 firearms, all the drugs and the \$310,000 in currency were buried in the ground around the property. With respect to the buried US currency, agents found that the money had been shrinkwrapped in bundles and secured inside a black plastic automotive shell, like those typically found in a vehicle's engine compartment to encase batteries or air filters. This shell had been sealed with orange spray foam prior to burial. Also at the property was SUBJECT VEHICLE 2, a black Chevy Silverado with California license plate DLR86963 that agents had seen VALDEZ-SANUDO driving to and from the Arlington

1	property on December 15, 2020, in addition to SUBJECT VEHICLE 3, a silver Ford
2	Raptor with California license plate 12858A. From surveillance, agents know VALDEZ-
3	SANUDO and ARREDONDO-VALDEZ both used SUBJECT VEHICLE 3. Agents
4	noticed that some of the orange spray foam (like that on the buried shell) was visible on
5	the undercarriage of SUBJECT VEHICLE 3.
6	34. Agents know from surveillance and intercepted communications that
7	VALDEZ-SANUDO typically directed redistributors to meet him and/or ARREDONDO-
8	VALDEZ at the Arlington property for drug transactions. For example, on November 5,
9	2020 at 6:52pm (Session 558), VALDEZ-SANUDO (TT134) received a call from Steven
10	DELVECCHIO (425-238-8595). During this call, VALDEZ-SANUDO asked
11	DELVECCHIO if he wanted "10 of those." DELVECCHIO answered, "Yes, 10 pieces."
12	VALDEZ-SANUDO said that he would call his "primo" (cousin, a reference to
13	ARREDONDO-VALDEZ). Later, at 7:02pm (Session 558), VALDEZ-SANUDO
14	(TT134) received a call from ARREDONDO-VALDEZ (TT136). During that call,
15	ARREDONDO-VALDEZ advised that DELVECCHIO had arrived "there" (at the
16	property at 21916 123rd Ave NE, Arlington, Washington). VALDEZ-SANUDO told
17	ARREDONDO-VALDEZ to check to see if the "Raptor" was open and grab
18	(unintelligible) from "there" because VALDEZ-SANUDO was on his way. At 7:04pm,
19	ARREDONDO-VALDEZ called back from TT136 (Session 559). VALDEZ-SANUDO
20	(TT134) told PRIMO to take "that" out and give 10 pieces to DELVECCHIO.
21	VALDEZ-SANUDO said there was some "shit" in the suitcase and told ARREDONDO-
22	VALDEZ to weigh 250 and just one "water." VALDEZ-SANUDO added that
23	DELVECCHIO would give ARREDONDO-VALDEZ some money.
24	35. Investigators believed this to mean that ARREDONDO-VALDEZ was at
25	the Arlington property and that VALDEZ-SANUDO was directing ARREDONDO-
26	VALDEZ to weigh out 250 grams of heroin for DELVECCHIO. Agents know from
27	training and experience that one unit of measurement commonly used with heroin is what
28	is referred to by drug traffickers as a "Mexican ounce," which is 25 grams even instead of

28 grams. As a result, "250" would equate to 250 grams, or 10 ounces or "pieces" of
heroin, the amount DELVECCHIO requested. VALDEZ-SANUDO also told
ARREDONDO-VALDEZ to provide DELVECCHIO with one "water," which agents
believe to reference one pound of methamphetamine.

- Arlington property, much of it was buried in the ground. Agents did not locate any amount that would have been easily accessible for conducting the DTO's day to day business. Agents believe it unlikely that VALDEZ-SANUDO or ARREDONDO-VALDEZ would attempt to access the drugs hidden underground throughout the property in the presence of redistributors, for fear of the information spreading and leading to theft or law enforcement discovery of the hidden items. Agents also believe it unlikely that VALDEZ-SANUDO or ARREDONDO-VALDEZ would continually unearth, separate, and weigh out drugs for each individual redistributor.
- 37. For these reasons and in addition to environmental factors prohibiting a more exhaustive search of the vehicles upon the arrests of VALDEZ-SANUDO and ARREDONDO-VALDEZ and execution of the Search Warrant at 21916 123rd Ave NE, in Arlington, agents believe that additional drugs may remain concealed in natural voids or other hidden compartments within SUBJECT VEHICLES 2 and 3 (and SUBJECT VEHICLE 1). SUBJECT VEHICLES 2 and 3 were secured and stored in a secure facility in Marysville, Washington until agents transported the vehicles to a secured facility in Puyallup, Washington on January 5, 2021.
- 38. Although agents conducted initial searches of SUBJECT VEHICLES 1-3, agents believe a more exhaustive search is needed, in particular for hidden traps or voids, to locate narcotics prepared by the DTO for daily transactions.
- 39. SUBJECT VEHICLES 2 and 3 were secured and stored in a secure facility in Marysville, Washington until agents transported the vehicles to a secured facility in Puyallup, Washington on January 5, 2021.

C. Probable Cause for SUBJECT DEVICES 8 and 9

- 40. On December 16, 2020 TFO Jeff Barrington assisted with the arrest of Aaron ALARCON-CASTANEDA and the execution of a search warrant at 4292 Walnut Ave #B, in Chino, California. Agents had identified ALARCON-CASTANEDA through surveillance and intercepted communications as a supplier to VALDEZ-SANUDO, and as someone who coordinated and stored shipments of narcotics arriving from Mexico for transport to the DTO in Western Washington. Count 2 of the Indictment referred to above charges VALDEZ-SANUDO and ALARCON-CASTANEDA with drug distribution based on the seizure of approximately 50 pounds of methamphetamine sent by ALARCON-CASTANEDA to VALDEZ-SANUDO in November 2020.
- 41. At approximately 5:15pm, agents and officers from Riverside DEA and the Riverside County Sheriff's Office arrested Aaron ALARCON-CASTANEDA at 3812 Francis Ave, Chino, California while ALARCON-CASTANEDA was feeding horses at the property (agents had also obtained a warrant to search this property on Francis Ave). Agents conducted a search of ALARCON-CASTANEDA's person pursuant to the warrant described above and seized SUBJECT DEVICES 8 and 9. ALARCON-CASTANEDA advised agents that his wife had gone to Mexico and that he (ALARCON-CASTANEDA) currently lived alone at 4292 Walnut Ave #B, Chino, California. Agents confirmed his residence at 4292 Walnut Ave #B when agents searching the location found mail, banking documents and tax returns in the name "Aaron ALARCON-CASTANEDA" there.
- 42. A search of ALARCON-CASTANEDA's residence produced six bundles of US currency wrapped in clear or green cellophane. Two bundles were in a red wastebasket, one bundle was inside a Downy detergent container, and three bundles were in a red zippered lunch bag in the refrigerator. The bundles totaled \$66,500. Agents are familiar with this method of money packaging as a method often used by drug traffickers to bundle currency. The currency is then wrapped in plastic so that the currency can be concealed in hidden compartments and (drug traffickers believe) is less likely to be

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detected by a drug or money sniffing K9. Agents located a Browning 9mm pistol and ammunition at ALARCON-CASTANEDA's residence.

For these reasons, agents believe SUBJECT DEVICES 8 and 9 have likely been used in the commission and/or facilitation of drug transactions and money laundering activity and may contain records of these transactions as well as information indicating ownership and usage. SUBJECT DEVICES 8 and 9 were transferred from the secure custody of the DEA in Southern California (where they were in law enforcement custody since their seizure on December 16, 2020) to the DEA in Tacoma, where they remain in secure custody.

VI. TACTICS USED BY DRUG TRAFFICKERS

- 44. Based upon my training, experience, and participation in this and other investigations involving narcotics trafficking, my conversations with other experienced investigators and law enforcement investigators with whom I work, and interviews of individuals who have been involved in the trafficking of methamphetamine, heroin and other narcotics, I have learned and know the following.
- 45. It is common for drug dealers to possess narcotics, drug paraphernalia, and other items which are associated with the sale and use of controlled substances such as scales, containers, cutting investigators and packaging materials in their residences, stash houses, storage units, garages, outbuildings and/or vehicles on their property.
- 46. It is common for drug dealers to hide proceeds of illegal narcotics sales and records of illegal narcotics transactions in secure locations within their residences, stash houses, storage units, garages, outbuildings and/or vehicles on the property for their ready access and to conceal them from law enforcement authorities.
- 47. It is common to find papers, letters, billings, documents, and other writings, which show ownership, dominion, and control of businesses, residences, and/or vehicles in the residences, stash houses, storage units, garages, outbuildings and/or vehicles of drug traffickers.

- 48. Drug traffickers often maintain large amounts of US currency in order to maintain and finance their ongoing illegal drug trafficking business. Often, drug traffickers from other countries operating in the United States frequently use wire remitters and bulk cash transfers to transfer currency to co-conspirators living in other countries. Drug traffickers also attempt to legitimize their cash drug proceeds. To accomplish this goal, drug traffickers use financial institutions and their attendant services, securities, cashier's checks, safe deposit boxes, money drafts, real estate, shell operations, and business fronts. Persons involved in drug trafficking and/or money laundering keep papers relating to these activities for future reference, including federal and state tax records, loan records, mortgages, deeds, titles, certificates of ownership, records regarding investments and securities, safe deposit box rental records and keys, and photographs. I know from my training and experience that often items of value are concealed by persons involved in large-scale drug trafficking inside of safes, lock boxes, and other secure locations within their residences, outbuildings, and vehicles.
- 49. Drug traffickers commonly have in their possession, on their person, and at their residences and/or in their storage units, firearms and other weapons, which are used to protect and secure a drug trafficker's drugs and cash proceeds from theft by other drug traffickers and/or criminals. Sometimes, drug traffickers will accept firearms in lieu of cash as payment for drugs, since they can either use the firearms themselves or sell the firearms for cash.
- 50. It is a common practice for drug traffickers to maintain records relating to their drug trafficking activities in their residences, stash houses, storage units, garages, outbuildings and/or vehicles. Because drug traffickers in many instances will "front" (that is, sell on consignment) controlled substances to their clients, or alternatively, will be "fronted" these items from their suppliers, such record keeping is necessary to keep track of amounts paid and owed, and such records will also be maintained close at hand so as to readily ascertain current balances. These records include "pay and owe" records to show balances due for drugs sold in the past (pay) and for payments expected (owe) as

to the trafficker's suppliers and distributors, telephone and address listings of clients and suppliers, and records of drug proceeds. These records are commonly kept for an extended period of time.

51. Narcotics traffickers maintain books, records, receipts, notes, ledgers, airline tickets, money orders, and other papers relating to the transportation and distribution of controlled substances. These documents whether in physical or electronic form, are maintained where the traffickers have ready access to them. These documents include travel records, receipts, airline tickets, auto rental agreements, invoices, and other memorandum disclosing acquisition of assets and personal or business expenses. I also know that such records are frequently maintained in narcotics traffickers' residences, stash houses, storage units, garages, outbuildings and/or vehicles.

Cellular Phones or Wireless Communication Devices

- 52. Drug traffickers use mobile electronic devices including cellular telephones and other wireless communication devices to conduct their illegal activities. For example, traffickers of controlled substances commonly maintain records of addresses, vehicles, or telephone numbers which reflect names, addresses, vehicles, and/or telephone numbers of their suppliers, customers and associates in the trafficking organization. It is common to find drug traffickers keeping such records of said associates in cellular telephones and other electronic devices. Traffickers often maintain cellular telephones for ready access to their clientele and to maintain their ongoing narcotics business. Traffickers frequently change their cellular telephone numbers to avoid detection by law enforcement, and it is common for traffickers to use more than one cellular telephone at any one time.
- 53. Drug traffickers prefer cellular telephones because, first, they can be purchased without the location and personal information that landlines require. Second, they can be easily carried to permit the user maximum flexibility in meeting associates, avoiding police surveillance, and traveling to obtain or distribute drugs. Third, they can be passed between members of a drug conspiracy to allow substitution when one member

leaves the area temporarily. Since cellular phone use became widespread, every drug dealer I have interacted with has used one or more cellular telephones for his or her drug business. I also know that it is common for drug traffickers to retain in their possession phones that they previously used, but have discontinued actively using, for their drug trafficking business.

- 54. Drug traffickers often document aspects of their criminal conduct through photographs or videos of themselves, their associates, their property, and their product. Drug traffickers usually maintain these photographs or videos on their cellular phones.
- 55. Based on my training and experience, the data maintained in a cellular telephone used by a drug dealer is evidence of a crime or crimes. This includes the following:
 - a. The assigned number to the cellular telephone (known as the mobile directory number or MDN), and the identifying telephone serial number (Electronic Serial Number, or ESN), (Mobile Identification Number, or MIN), (International Mobile Subscriber Identity, or IMSI), or (International Mobile Equipment Identity, or IMEI) are important evidence because they reveal the service provider, allow us to obtain subscriber information, and uniquely identify the telephone. This information can be used to obtain toll records, to identify contacts by this telephone with other cellular telephones used by co-conspirators, to identify other telephones used by the same subscriber or purchased as part of a package, and to confirm if the telephone was contacted by a cooperating source.
 - b. The stored list of recent received calls and sent calls is important evidence. It identifies telephones recently in contact with the telephone user. This is valuable information in a drug investigation because it will identify telephones used by other members of the organization, such as suppliers, distributors and customers, and it confirms the date and time of contacts. If the user is under surveillance, it identifies what number he called during or around the time of a drug transaction or surveilled meeting. Even if a contact involves a telephone user

not part of the conspiracy, the information is helpful (and thus is evidence) because it leads to friends and associates of the user who can identify the user, help locate the user, and provide information about the user. Identifying a defendant's law-abiding friends is often just as useful as identifying his drugtrafficking associates.

- c. Stored messages are important evidence, similar to stored numbers. Investigators can identify both drug associates, and friends of the user who likely have helpful information about the user, his location, and his activities.
- d. Photographs on a cellular telephone are evidence because they help identify the user, either through his or her own picture, or through pictures of friends, family, and associates that can identify the user. Pictures also identify associates likely to be members of the drug trafficking organization. Some drug traffickers photograph groups of associates, sometimes posing with weapons and showing identifiable gang signs. Also, digital photos often have embedded "geocode" information within them. Geocode information is typically the longitude and latitude where the photo was taken. Showing where the photo was taken can have evidentiary value. This location information is helpful because, for example, it can show where coconspirators meet, where they travel, and where assets might be located.
- e. Stored address records are important evidence because they show the user's close associates and family members, and they contain names and nicknames connected to phone numbers that can be used to identify suspects.
- 56. Many wireless communication devices, including cellular telephones such as iPhones, iPads, Android phones, and other "smart phones," as well as tablet devices such as Apple iPads, may also be used to browse and search the Internet. These devices may browse and search the internet using traditional web browsers such as Apple's Safari browser or Google's Chrome browser as well as through third-party applications such as Facebook, Twitter and others that also provide the ability to browse and search the

1 internet. Based on my training and experience, I know that internet browsing history may include valuable evidence regarding the identity of the user of the device. This evidence may include online usernames, account numbers, e-mail accounts and bank accounts as well as other online services. Internet browsing history may also reveal important evidence about a person's location and search history. Search history is often valuable evidence that may help reveal a suspect's intent and plans to commit a crime or efforts to hide evidence of a crime and may also help reveal the identity of the person using the device.

- 57. Cellphones and other wireless communication devices are also capable of operating a wide variety of communication applications or "apps" that allow a user to communicate with other devices via a variety of communication channels. These additional communication channels include traditional cellular networks, voice over internet protocol, video conferencing (such as FaceTime and Skype), and a wide variety of messaging applications (such as SnapChat, WhatsApp, Signal, Telegram, Viber and iMessage). I know based on my training and experience that there are hundreds of different messaging and conferencing applications available for popular cellular telephones and that the capabilities of these applications vary widely for each application. Some applications include end-to-end encryption that may prevent law enforcement from deciphering the communications without access to the device and the ability to "unlock" the device through discovery of the user's password or other authentication key.
- 58. Other communication applications transmit communications unencrypted over centralized servers maintained by the service provider and these communications may be obtained from the service provider using appropriate legal process. Other applications facilitate multiple forms of communication including text, voice, and video conferencing. Information from these communication apps may constitute evidence of the crimes under investigation to the extent they may reveal communications related to the crime or evidence of who the user of the device was communicating with and when

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those communications occurred. Information from these communication apps may also reveal alias names used by the device owner that may lead to other evidence.

- 59. Cellphones and other wireless communication devices may also contain geolocation information indicating where the device was at particular times. Many of these devices track and store GPS and cell-site location data to provide enhanced location-based services, serve location-targeted advertising, search results, and other content. Numerous applications available for wireless communication devices collect and store location data. For example, when location services are enabled on a handheld mobile device, many photo applications will embed location data with each photograph taken and stored on the device. Mapping applications such as Google Maps may store location data including lists of locations the user has entered into the application. Location information may constitute evidence of the crimes under investigation because that information may reveal whether a suspect was at or near the scene of a crime at any given moment and may also reveal evidence related to the identity of the user of the device.
- different than conducting a search of a traditional computer. Agents and forensic examiners will attempt to extract the contents of the cellular phone or wireless communication device using a variety of techniques designed to accurately capture the data in a forensically sound manner in order to make the data available to search for the items authorized by the search warrant. This may involve extracting a bit-for-bit copy of the contents of the device or, if such an extraction is not feasible for any particular device, the search may involve other methods of extracting data from the device such as copying the device's active user files (known as a logical acquisition) or copying the device's entire file system (known as a file system acquisition). If none of these methods are supported by the combination of tools available to the examiner and the device to be searched, the agents and examiners may conduct a manual search of the device by scrolling through the contents of the device and photographing the results.

1 VIII. CONCLUSION 2 I am submitting this Affidavit in support of an application to search the 61. 3 items more fully described in Attachments A1 to A11. Based on the information 4 described in this Affidavit, I believe these items have been used by Cesar VALDEZ-5 SANUDO, Jose Luis ARREDONDO-VALDEZ, and Aaron ALARCON-CASTANEDA 6 to further their drug trafficking and money laundering crimes in violation of Title 21, 7 United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), 843(b), 846, and 952, and Title 18, United States 8 Code, Sections 924(c), 1956, and 1957, and that evidence of such, as described more 9 particularly in Attachment B, will be found in these items. 10 I am submitting this Affidavit and Application electronically in accordance 62. 11 with Local Criminal Rule 41(d)(3). 12 13 Respectfully submitted, 14 15 16 LUKE A. BRANDEBERRY 17 Task Force Officer Drug Enforcement Administration 18 19 The above-named agent provided a sworn statement to the truth of the foregoing 20 Affidavit by telephone on this 6th day of January 2021. 21 22 23 CHARD CREATURA 24 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE 25 **JUDGE** 26 27 28

ATTACHMENT A1

Vehicle Description: A red 2015 Infiniti G50 with California license plate 7YZX305 and vehicle identification number (VIN) JN1BV7AP9FM356613, registered to "Marqilla Marwan" at "1185 Peach Ave, El Cajon, CA."



ATTACHMENT A2

Vehicle Description: A black 2016 Chevy Silverado with California license plate DLR86963 and vehicle identification number (VIN) 3GCPCREC8GG246619, registered to "Raymundo Alvarez Alvarez" at "5289 28th Pl SW, Naples, FL."



ATTACHMENT A3

Vehicle Description: A silver 2013 Ford Raptor with California license plate 12858A3 and vehicle identification number (VIN) 1FTFW1R62DFC87477, registered to "Cesar Valdez Sanudo" at "4525 Grand Ave, Everett, WA."



ATTACHMENT A4 Item Description: A black Samsung cellular telephone located in Cesar VALDEZ-SANUDO's shirt pocket at the time of his arrest on December 16, 2020.

ATTACHMENT A5 Item Description: A black LG cellular telephone located on Jose Luis ARREDONDO-VALDEZ's person at the time of his arrest on December 16, 2020.

ATTACHMENT A6 Item Description: A black Samsung cellular telephone located in the driver's door of a red 2015 Infiniti G50 with California license plate 7YZX305 and vehicle identification number (VIN) JN1BV7AP9FM356613.

ATTACHMENT A7 Item Description: A black LG cellular telephone with International Mobile Equipment Identity number 355041-61-323336-5 located in the center console of a red 2015 Infiniti G50 with California license plate 7YZX305 and vehicle identification number (VIN) JN1BV7AP9FM356613.

ATTACHMENT A8 Item Description: A black LG cellular telephone with International Mobile Equipment Identity number 355041613860712, located in a blue, leather zipper bag located on the front passenger seat floorboard area of a red 2015 Infiniti G50 with California license plate 7YZX305 and vehicle identification number (VIN) JN1BV7AP9FM356613.

ATTACHMENT A9 Item Description: A black LG cellular telephone with International Mobile Equipment Identity number 355041613860738, located in a blue, leather zipper bag located on the front passenger seat floorboard area of a red 2015 Infiniti G50 with California license plate 7YZX305 and vehicle identification number (VIN) JN1BV7AP9FM356613.

ATTACHMENT A10 Item Description: A black LG cellular telephone with International Mobile Equipment Identity number 354544116218974, located in a blue, leather zipper bag located on the front passenger seat floorboard area of a red 2015 Infiniti G50 with California license plate 7YZX305 and vehicle identification number (VIN) JN1BV7AP9FM356613.

ATTACHMENT A11 Item Description: Two Apple iPhone Cellular telephones found in the possession of Aaron ALARCON-CASTANEDA at the time of his arrest on December 16, 2020.

1 ATTACHMENT B
Items to be seized

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From the items listed in Attachments A1 through A11 of this warrant, the government is authorized to search for and seize the following items, which are evidence and/or fruits of the commission of the following crimes: distribution and possession with intent to distribute controlled substances in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1), and conspiracy to commit these offenses in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846; use of a communications facility in furtherance of a felony drug offense in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 843(b); importation of controlled substances, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 952; possession of firearms in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c); and laundering of monetary instruments in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1956 and 1957, including the following:

- 1) Any suspected controlled substances, for example, methamphetamine, heroin, imitation oxycodone/opiate pills, and cocaine;
- 2) Firearms and firearms-related items, including magazines, ammunition, holsters, and body armor, or other dangerous weapons;
- 3) Cellular telephones and other communications devices including iPhones, smartphones, flip phones, and similar devices, which may be searched only for the following items:
 - Assigned telephone number and identifying serial number (e.g., ESN, MIN, IMSI, IMEI);
 - Stored list of recent received, sent, or missed calls;
 - Stored contact information;
 - Stored photographs and videos of narcotics, currency, guns or other weapons, suspected criminal activity, and/or the user of the phone or coconspirators;

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- Stored messages that relate to the above-enumerated federal crimes;
 - Passwords, encryption keys, and other access information that may be
 necessary to access communication and financial accounts associated
 with the equipment or user of the equipment, but if agents find such
 passwords, encryption keys, and other access information they will seek
 a subsequent warrant before proceeding to access said communications
 and financial accounts;
 - Evidence indicating how and when the cellular telephone or other communications device was accessed or used, to determine the geographic and chronological context of device access and use, in relation to the crimes under investigation and to the device user; and
 - Evidence of the identities of and relationships between co-conspirators;
- 4) Financial profits, proceeds and instrumentalities of trafficking in narcotics and money laundering, including US currency and other items of value;
- 5) Paraphernalia for packaging, smuggling, processing, diluting, manufacturing, weighing, and distributing controlled substances, for example: hidden compartments, scales, blenders, funnels, sifters, grinders, glass panes, mirrors, razor blades, plastic bags, heat sealing devices, and diluting agents such as inositol, vitamin B12, etc.;
- 6) Books, records, receipts, notes, ledgers, and other documents relating to the distribution of controlled substances, money laundering, communications between members of the conspiracy, and evidence of the use of apparently legitimate businesses to disguise profits;
- 7) Photographs, video tapes, digital cameras, and similar items depicting friends and relatives of the vehicle occupants, or suspected buyers or sellers of controlled substances, controlled substances, and assets derived from the distribution of controlled substances;

- 8) Personal books and papers reflecting names, addresses, telephone numbers, and other contact or identification data relating to the distribution of controlled substances, and money laundering;
- 9) Financial records relating to controlled substances income and expenditures of money and wealth, to wit: money orders, wire transfer records, cashier's checks and receipts, bank account records, passbooks, tax records, safe deposit box keys and records, checkbooks, and check registers, as well as precious metals and gems such as gold, silver, diamonds, etc.;
- 10) Items of personal property that tend to identify the person(s) in control or ownership of the vehicle, including canceled mail, deeds, leases, rental agreements, photographs, personal telephone books, diaries, utility and telephone bills, statements, identification documents, and keys;
- 11) Identification documents, including passports, visas, alien registration cards, any travel documents, immigration documents, driver's licenses, identification cards, and social security cards;
- 12) Documents indicating travel in interstate and foreign commerce, to include airline tickets, notes and travel itineraries; airline schedules; gas receipts, bills; charge card receipts; hotel, motel, and car rental statements; correspondence with travel agencies and other travel related businesses; airline, rental car, and hotel frequent flier or user cards and statements; passports and visas; telephone bills; photographs of foreign locations; and papers relating to domestic and international travel; and
 - 13) Latent prints and identifying material from the vehicle and phones.